

*I met DAY OF MOURNING while on tour out east, they helped our band get on a show in Sherbrooke. When we got back to Toronto, I started seeing Dom at a ton of shows. He would get me copies of their new releases. They cranked out new stuff every month. I was blown away by the "Your Future's End" release, which was the first thing he gave me. I am not a fan of tough guy music, but these guys are too fun to be tough guy clones. They've got a real good sense of humor in that navel-gazing power violence sort of way. They pay attention to detail and really give a shit about having fun. Interview by Stephe Perry.*

# DAY OF MOURNING

**MRR:** Who is in the band right now, and what instruments do you play?

Dom: Right now, Day of Mourning is Fawad (a.k.a. Fudd, on vocals), Jason (drums), A.T.N. (guitar), Jon (bass), and myself, Domenic (guitar).

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**MRR:** How long have you been together?

Dom: In one form or another, this band dates back to the fall of 1994. But we've been going on as Day of Mourning since the summer of 1998.

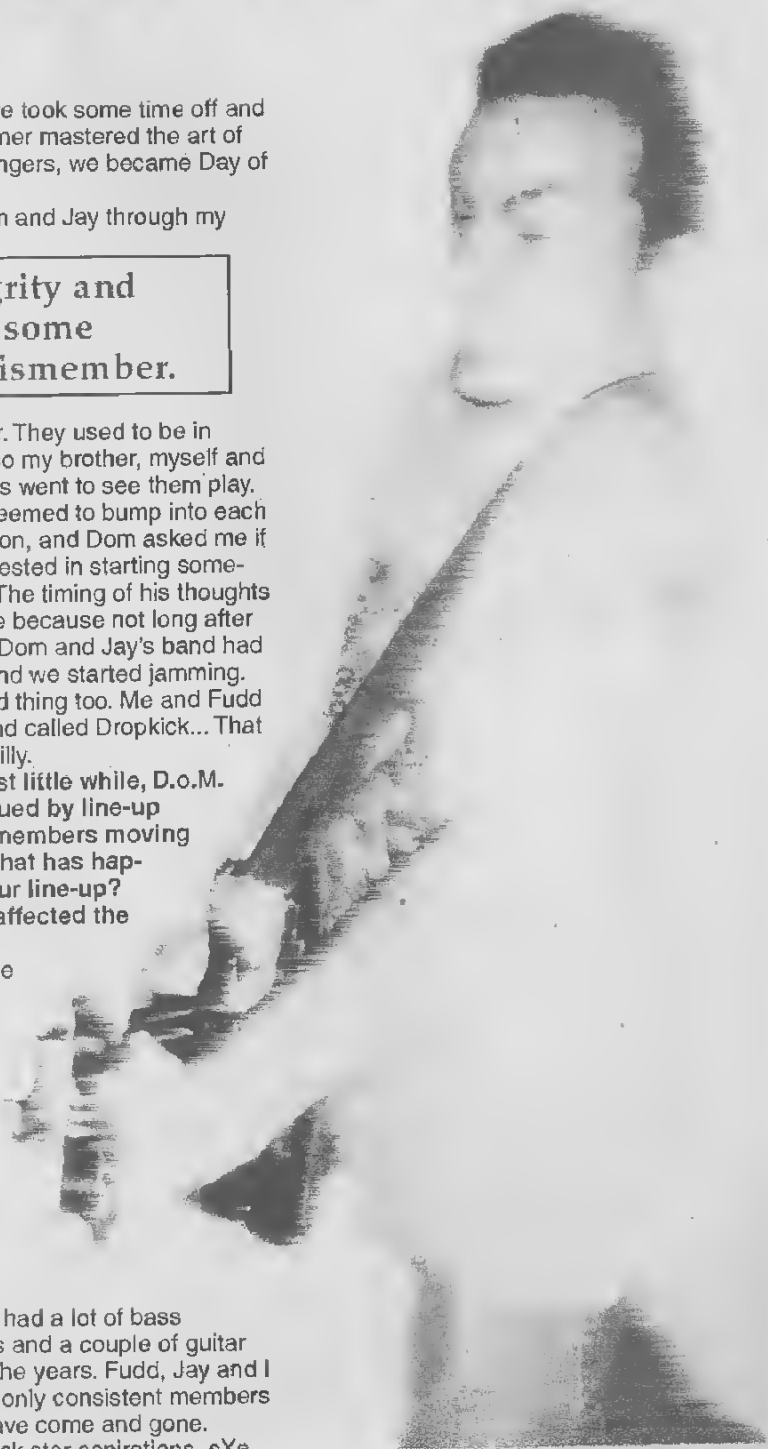
**MRR:** How did you all meet? How did the band form?

Dom: Jason and I have been playing in bands together since the 6th grade. We were just a couple of kids playing bad metal and Ramones covers mixed with prank phone calls. I still have those tapes somewhere. We'd call up this kid and record the conversation, then we'd call each other and record a bogus conversation consisting of ferrible questions and accusations. Then, we'd splice the two tapes together and play it back to his family's answering machine. Those were crazy days, but whoa... I'm going way off topic. We met Fudd at a Creed show (not the huge mainstream band out now, it was our band at the time) because I was friends with his brother. We just started goofing off playing Suicidal covers and old Sepultura songs. By then we decided that our singer was a geek so we got Fudd in the band and became Dirge. A few more years of bad (but sincere) metal followed and then we started getting better and better. We started getting on really good shows, and before you knew it, there were a lot of kids into what we were doing. But then, we rolled our van a few times on tour, and our drummer lost a finger in the process. Technically we should have all died, but

younger brother. They used to be in another band, so my brother, myself and two other friends went to see them play. After that, we seemed to bump into each other on occasion, and Dom asked me if I would be interested in starting something with him. The timing of his thoughts was impeccable because not long after we had talked, Dom and Jay's band had called it quits and we started jamming. Dom: It's a good thing too. Me and Fudd were in this band called Dropkick... That was just plain silly.

**MRR:** In the last little while, D.o.M. has been plagued by line-up changes and members moving out of town. What has happened with your line-up? How has that affected the band?

Dom: Ever since we first got together in 1994, we've been plagued with being a puzzle with missing pieces. To be specific, we've had a lot of bass player changes and a couple of guitar changes over the years. Fudd, Jay and I have been the only consistent members while others have come and gone. Drugs, girls, rock star aspirations, sXe



frustration, family illnesses, right down to being the worst bassist of all time. We've had a smorgasbord of members come and go for various reasons. Over the past little while, we've had friends fill in for us so that we could play shows, but that could only have gone so far. We decided to stop for a while, and look for a permanent bassist. We found him, his name is Jon, and we're back on the map. Our drummer moved to Montreal which is six hours away,

and that's been a total pain in the ass, but he has proven that he wants to do this. He's a weiner, but he's here whenever we need him. Unfortunately, as far as playing shows at the last minute goes, it's just not possible

anymore, which sucks hella, because I really miss that.

Fudd: Aside from being without a bassist for a long time, the D.o.M. line-up has been solid. We're just putting things on hold until Jay finishes school in Montreal.

Dom: Yeah, Fudd's right, our other guitar player A.T.N. has stuck it through some tough times, therefore I must acknowledge him in this interview even though he can't read.

MRR: Were you in any previous bands?

Dom: Too many bands. Growing up, Jay and I had a different band every couple of weeks...too many. The last few (Souls of Doubt, Creed, and Dirge) were probably the most notable. A.T.N. used to be in a rap-metal band where the singer wore these stupid flight-goggles. That was pretty classic. Jon has been in a few bands...hmm...Ignorance Never Settles...In Harms Way...Fine Motor

Control and well Fudd, well let's just say we broke his band virginity, baby. You read it here first.

Fudd: When me, Dom and Jay started playing music, we were in a band called Dirge. This band was pretty much metal with a slight hardcore influence. We then dissolved Dirge, and Day of Mourning was formed. The members who made up Dirge at the time made up the first line-up of D.o.M.

MRR: Where did the name Day of Mourning come from? Does it have any meaning or significance?

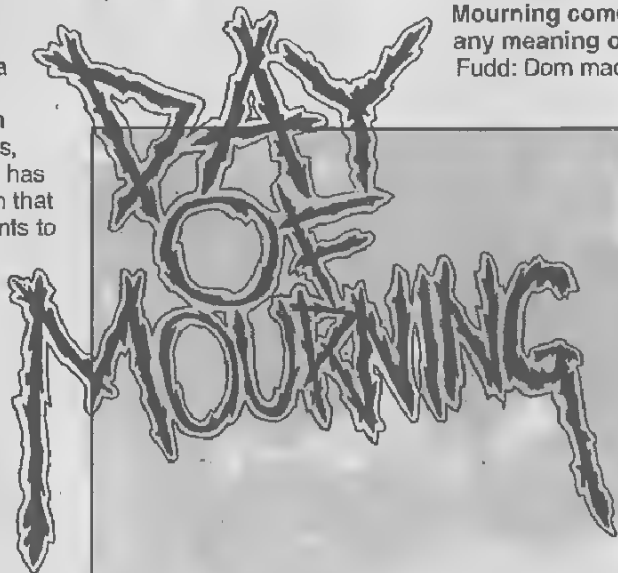
Fudd: Dom made up the name.

what goes wrong, and bettering yourself from it. That's what we're about. Lying around in an emotional gutter is nothing more than a waste of time. Alright, positive is over, next question.

MRR: Are any of you involved in any extra-curricular punk activities (zines, websites, bands etc)? Tell me about XCASX.

Dom: XCoalition Against ShaneX is a band that me and a friend started for the sole purposes of being idiots and making fun of people. All of us in D.o.M. and XCASX have been friends for a long time, and are complete jokers and fools.

We started off making fun of this kid Shane (original D.o.M. bassist) for being a complete skid and all of a sudden it blew up. I never thought it would go anywhere, but a lot of kids are into this band. I think my favorite



Dom: The idea for a new name came to me at one of those moments where I was totally frustrated with life. It happens to me all the time. I begin to think about humanity's downfall, how it's all falling apart and how nobody cares...and well,

thing about XCASX is the fact that like 95% of the lyrical content, no matter how shocking...is completely true. Yes, we did make a kid eat a raw onion for a demo, yes, there was a kid named Tobe that drank a bottle of pee to amuse us, and

ye,s we did get drunk metalheads to harass Corpsegrinder at a Cannibal Corpse show. We're dorks, but it's harmless fun, until someone gets stabbed with a pitchfork, which actually happened at a XCASX show, but that's a story in itself. We've collaborated with such heroes (well, to us anyway) as Dan Lilker of

Brutal Truth, Chris Dodge of Spazz, and the mighty rock warrior THOR. We did a couple of demos that went out of print and were pressed onto the "Down with the King" CD on XProphecy RecordsX which is also out of print. Right now, we have a split CD with THOR called "Keepin' the Dogs Away" which is doing really good. We wanna revive THOR, so we can tour with him and PILEDRIVER. I

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it's that which makes every day a day of mourning. Every day is a day of mourning. You wake up with bright hopes for a new day, and you come home rained on. Now it may seem negative, but really it's not. It's actually so much more. We're about using the day of mourning to make a positive change. It's the classic hardcore concept of channeling negative energy into a positive use. Learning from

also do a record label called 13th Day Recordings which is basically a project I have to release stuff by my bands, or friends' bands. I'm doing the A DEATH FOR EVERY SIN CD next, it's gonna be sickening. Real hard stuff....look for it soon.

**MRR: What topics do you sing about?**

Fudd: Day Of Mourning's lyrics deal with rape, abuse, guilt, shame... Even though topically these subjects don't seem out of the ordinary, they are things we feel need to be continually dealt with.

**MRR: What are some of the titles of your songs?**

Fudd: Some of my favorite titles are: "Enemy Of Angels," "Parable for a Holocaust," and "Demons Who Wear the Same Face."

Dom: My favorites are "Reborn as the Enemy" and "Tales from the Hard Side."

**MRR: What is your favorite song from a lyrical standpoint and why?**

Fudd: My favorite song from a lyrical standpoint is "Enemy of Angels," and I have two reasons for this. First, everything I wanted to say about the issue of rape, and how I view rapists, I felt I said. The points made in this song were clear without being preachy. Secondly, I felt I expressed a perspective on the issue that is often overlooked, and that is a rapist or someone who has committed this sort of atrocity doesn't always fit some sort of predisposed psychological profile. Statistically speaking, most of the males that commit rape do not have a history of sexually violent behavior.

**MRR: Describe your sound for those**

**who have never heard you before.**

Fudd: In a nutshell, we're basically grind/death metal crossed with hardcore, and we've got lots of hooks and dance parts. Dom: Hmm... If you were to really dig into it, imagine a cross between Integrity and Napalm Death mixed with some Bolt Thrower, Hatebreed and Dismember. Add in a touch of Neurosis and Bloodlet for flavor, and serve to hardcore kids and hair farmers alike.

**MRR: What bands do you listen to? Who are your inspirations?**

Dom: As of late I've been listening to Godbelow, the Swarm, Ringworm, Integrity (always), Legion, Tom Jones, and Danzig. Musically, I'm inspired by everything around me musical, or not. I

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do blame AC/DC for infecting me with the rock demon when I was a kid and it was seeing Madball play that made me want to play hardcore.

Fudd: I listen to a lot of different kinds of music aside from hardcore, punk or metal. Some of my favorite bands/inspirations are Napalm Death, Suicidal Tendencies, Bad Brains, Minor Threat, Black Flag, Dead Kennedys, GBH, Earthmover, Cold as Life, and Skinny Puppy.

Dom: My favorite record of all time is "Freddie Krueger's Greatest Hits." I can listen to "All I Have To Do Is Dream" over and over. I'm serious.

**MRR: What releases do you have?**

Dom: We did a full length CD on Up-

heaval Records in 1998 called "Reborn as the Enemy," we did 2 split CDs, one with Red Sky, and the other with Clenched Fist, both on 13th Day Recordings. We did a split 7" with Hardtime as well as a CD called "Your Future's End" on Sounds of Revolution Records, and we've been on a bazillion comps on United Edge, Endless Fight, and Back to Basics to name a few. To see the whole list, go to our website, it's pretty hectic once all the compilations and the demos get involved.

**MRR: Do you have any recording plans in the future? What are they and with whom?**

Dom: We're recording for a split 7" with Coalition Against Shane pretty soon, and

then we're doing a full length the first week of July for Olympic Recordings. That should be out around Halloween.

Look for it, it's going to be called "Onwards to Tragedy and Contempt." It's gonna be classic.

**MRR: What are the band's plans?**

Dom: Right now, we're just writing feverishly and rehearsing a lot so that we sound good on the new album. Our songs have become a bit more technically demanding, and we wanna sound really good and be able to pull it off live as well. We do the record at the beginning of July, and we're planning to start touring at the end of July. It's gonna be a busy time, hanging out with all our friends from all over and having a lot of fun. I can't wait.

**MRR: Day of Mourning have been a band plagued with controversy based**



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on rumors and circumstance. What are these rumors and how have they affected the band?

Dom: The common thread is that idiots with a lot of free time on their hands do indeed exist in our scene, just as they exist outside. Some of my favorites are: Rumor #1: D.o.M. are a Christian band. Because we thank God in our records, some idiot kid made a stink and tried to boycott us via some Internet campaign. Threats of violence at our show were made, none were backed up of course, they didn't even show up. I got on-line and defended our stance as having Christian, Muslim, and atheist members in the band, and how we don't preach our religious beliefs through D.o.M. and the problem disappeared. It returned and spread once we left the

Midwest, of course. Typical. Rumor #2: D.O.M. are a neo-nazi band, as a result of doing a split 7" with a band that thanks OLC in their credits, and because we are friends with some controversial people in the hardcore scene. This is something we get ostracized for often. We openly do not agree with ignorant views, but we still get lumped in as being ignorant for being friends with people who do. We're smart enough to

think for ourselves and know what's right or wrong. I'm not going to stop being friends with someone because they say a lot of stupid things to intentionally make people mad. I'm smart enough to see it, and I'd expect the same from anyone who opens their mouth and makes up rumors about us behind our backs. We've been confronted in person once or twice about this, and when given a chance to speak our piece, the rumor gets squashed. Add in the fact that D.o.M. is comprised of both white- and brown-skinned members, D.o.M. is from a predominately brown-skinned neighborhood, and that we've been playing benefits for ARA since like 1996, I think it's pretty obvious that the rumor is just something kids use for the sake of talking and looking like they have something to say.

Rumor #3: D.O.M. are a tough-guy band. Another classic rumor stemmed from the Midwest because some drunk ran over some of our gear (wrecking it, thus making it impossible to use for the rest of the tour) and our roadie threatened to beat him up if he didn't pay up for the

damage. We are totally against drunk driving, that could have been a kid instead of some drum stands and a guitar. We made sure that guy knew that he'd have to pay the price, and he did. Now the best part comes from the kid that had booked that show who had also booked another show for us later on in the tour. He didn't pay us in full, and promised to pay the balance of what he owed us at the next show. We took him up on that in good faith and when we returned for the show a week later, the show was canceled and the kid was nowhere to be found. We got home from tour, and these rumors are still abounding. I guess it's true that we are judged by the company that we keep. We've got a lot of big, crazy friends that seem to

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find trouble, and we get lumped in. Other instances have all been based around us getting screwed over somehow and us standing up for ourselves. Nothing more. There has never, ever been an incident where we have bullied anyone to gain anything. Ask anyone that knows us. We're not that kind of people.

Rumor #4: D.O.M. are a militant sXe band. This rumor started from kids that see us at bigger shows, and are in the dark as to what we are about. These kids like to drink and get stupid which is fine, they see Fudd with his sXe gloves, he makes comments about his beliefs and they get upset and talk about how they like us, but hate sXe. Then this gets fueled by rumors of us being really militant, which I must admit, we kinda fuel sometimes just to be idiots. And it gets to the point where some kids will avoid supporting us because we're sXe which isn't even true. Only 2/5 members

of D.o.M. (me and Fudd) are sXe. Rumor #5: D.o.M. aren't a real Toronto Hardcore band. This rumor stemmed from our early days when some of us used to play in a band called Dirge. We were new kids from a different suburb that no one was from and knew nothing about. We liked bad metal, and played bad metal, but were hella sincere about it. We put out our own records, toured tons on our own and still didn't get the respect at home. We did awesome everywhere else, and as we progressed into Day of Mourning, we got pretty big outside of Toronto, and kids began to catch on. Some kids insist that we don't deserve what we have (which isn't really that much anyway!) and continue to try and sour our reputation by mixing up the basic ingredients of the above rumors, and adding their own flavor. But over the years, we've come to be accepted in Toronto. A lot of the kids with mouths have fallen off, and we're still here, doing the same thing, being the same thing: sincere hardcore kids playing metal, helping out bands from their scene, and keeping it DIY for the past 6 years. End of story.

**MRR: How can people get in touch with you?**

Dom: They can write: 7205 Goreway Dr/PO Box 59065/Melton, Ontario/Canada, L4T-4J1. They can call (416)

685-0928. They can e-mail:

[notoriousdom@dsribenet](mailto:notoriousdom@dsribenet) or they can check out our website at <http://sohc.org/dom/>

**MRR: Any last words or final comments?**

Fudd: Toronto is a potential hotbed for some serious musical activities. Toronto, and Ontario by and large, are home to some fantastic bands. More kids should realize that if any one of these

bands were in fact suddenly signed, the music would still be great. It's time to disregard all the useless tags of popularity and clique and support bands simply because they make amazing music.

Dom: Fudd's right, lots of good bands. Check out Facedown, Countdown to Oblivion, No Warning, Legion, H.O.I.B.A.K., A Death for Every Sin, The End, Confine. I can go on forever. A good place to start if you are a computer nerd is: <http://sohc.org/>. That's it, thanks for the interview Stephe, and look for the new album "Onwards to Tragedy and Contempt" this Rocktober. It'll be the one with Steve Reniewicz on the album cover.